8/1/69

Dear Gary,

Herewith your two letters to F &M abd one to Dave. Thanks. This while thing seems more incredible with everything you let me know. Not one of those people can be normal, rational and Dave becomes more sinister with each disclosure. Do you realize this all dates to before he knew or met me, to before the appearance of any book but WHITEWASH, and to before it was sold in LA, to thebest of my present recollection? It was not until the American Book-sellers' Association annual convention, which was the end of the first week of June, that I was able to reach and interest any wholesalers in WHITEWASH? Shipping to California by bus took some time, and that wholesaler, to the best of my knowledge, did nothing with it until I did a radio show by phone with Joe Dolan, then in Oakland, which set the place on fire. It was the Tursday night-Friday morning before the Fourth of July, and there wasn't a book in SF. He rushed them up from LA in response to the great demand, sold 500 immediately and reordered by phone. I do not know what might have happened in an individual bookstore in the LA area, oe whether any copies had been obtained from NYC, where there were some. Hal first called me the day of that broadcast. I'd never heard of him before then. So, with my recollection being that Dave started his campaign against me in June of 1966, should I not wonder why, whether this can all be explained by illness?

I feel okay. I suspect what I now feel is anxiety over the diagnosis of anxiety. I am taking it a bit easier, getting into the pool more often, bedding earlier, trying to stay asleep in the a.m., etc., and not pushing as hard at writing...The medicine is Equanil or Milltown, ot eliminate spelling error. Do not extend yourself or, please, do not buy it. Only if there is a free supply available. The two I take nightly seem to do some good, for I am able to sleep longer. I never take the other two during the day, but if I begin to feel at all excited, as from content of the writing, I take one.

Thanks for the Square. I'll still see if Bud's machine will make copies when next I'm there. I am still waiting to hear from Paul on the microfilm data. I'd have tried making arrangements last week when I was in DC if he'd responded.

By now you know I got that Councillor. Wish there were space to work in their story and ad for the hhemincal gun for women and the "endorsement". It is strange that they left the LHO angle out....Jerry does call once in a while and I'll tell him. I asked him to do it through you because you said Fred was engaging in the futility of trying to appear npt in it.

Northwestern ref was to prof. No response yet. I may want to go into that in AGENT OSWALD.

Your recollection on Fred and 133A&B is essentially correct. Let me tell you the whole story as I recall it and I believe my recollection is accirate because it is so flattering. As you know, I always carry a little something with me on the cchance of getting someone new to do some work. That trip I had these pictures and planned to use them also on the Pyne TV Show if they'd go for another and I planned to get a rifle (and did) to show the dlip dropping out, as Dick says, like a stool from a cow. I left all arrangements to Steve. Fred had just joined the committee, was aware of and fascinated by my work, and read through my ellipsis rather well. He asked that Steve bunk me there. He then explained this to me and he was quite on the point, as with Willis 5 and other things he specified. This understanding of my suspicions, he told me, is what really turned him on. And he liked my direct and hot manner. When I found he is an artist and with photo-graphic connections (he had already done the Willis 5 thing for my, with a sketched overlay, gave it to me, and I thinnk I also showeed youbthat

I went into the rifle pictures with him and asked him, if he were to attempt to prove them a fake, he would go about it. His reply was almost spontaneous when I showed him both pix: what he did for me. He would enlarge the heads on both to identically the same sizemm, make negatives of each, and overlay. I either gave him a set of pictures, which is what I think I did (for I know I had two sets I get at the same time and now have only one), or told him how to get them from the Archives, since that would be faster than awaiting my return (and I knew I'd be busy woth oo coming and trying to record everything I did on that trip). He did exactly what he said he would and sent it to me. Without any wrong intention, he also made a set and sent it to Jim. I phoned Billings trying to interest LIFE in this especially because theyk used that picture on the cover, loaned them to the National Enquirer and told others trying to interest some publication in his work. I probably have some letters establishing this. I may remember incorrectly, in that this may relate to other pictures, But I think I sent you a letter in which he thanked me for giving him pictures he did not have to return (as I asked he do with the SS reconstruction pictures I loaned him). That was only part of what I have done with this single thing for AGENT OSWALD. I believe I showed you, and I know I wrote him, about what a high-school student showed me (I having missed it) in these pictures, the doctoring of the woman in the background. Fred said he didn't see it. I have his letter. Not very sharp. I think by that time he didn't want to. There are other things he and Watson should never have missed in those pictures, more visible and more credible than what he has found. I am confident I took the time to write and thank him, tell him what I was trying to do, etc., even though that was a rough period, with Lil in a cast. His letter to Jim, which I have with the negatives still taped together with the masking tape commercial artists use, is dated 3/18/68 and makes no reference to my having interested him in this. It begins, "I got two prints (Commission Exhibit 133A and 133B) from the National Archives" and describes the markings I had had them make on the reverse side of mine, what they usualy would not have done that "they were identified as copies from the original negatives and numbered". He wrote on the top of the carbon he sent me "Harold-Jaffe mailed this stuff to Jim and so far no word...in fact Jaffe tells me the pkg never arrived!"...After this thought I' d check file. He first wrote me 12.14/67 after reading PW. High praise and some questions. The enclosed note addressing itself you the purpose of your question was written at the bottom of his 2/27/68. He says I gave him both pictures. So you can better judge whether faulty memory is in any way involved and how far back some of what goes, I've copied these things for you, including the inscription I had Johnson add to the back of the pictures. I think you' recognize his writing.

Need anyx more? These people all have the same sickness: recognition. If it were worth the time I'd go through my files and send you a copy of my writing one of them of discovering the color change. I think it was about the time of Mark's wretched piece in the Freep (which also owes me money and doesn't respond to bills or letters-they are all alike!).

Before getting back to work, did you notice Penn's acknolwedgement that he owes me money? It is about $2 125.00, for me quite a bit. He ~~rixix~~ flies around the world while telling me how strapped he is - and I'm the bad guy.

I regret the time all of this takes, but you are dealing with those people and I do not want you to have the experiences I've had. I make no pretenses of superholiness or being better than the next guy, but you show me one of them or anyone else I've dealt with who will say that I consciously did anything to hurt or damage him and say it to my face....Did I ever tell you the project Lifton did to ruin me with the NYTimes, how he went to a great deal of trouble and did a special report to prove me wrong on the Z camera, its speed, etc, and did it all in terms of Nix's? How mpre scholarly can you get than to use the wrong camera, one with different characteristics? This is old stuff. Best,H